

Daniel Peterson, CW5, U.S. Army Retired:

Daniel Peterson grew up in Essexville Michigan and entered the US Army on September 11, 1968. He attended Basic Training at Ft. Know, KY., expecting to go to Fr. Polk, LA. as everyone else was, but was surprised that he had been selected to attend the US Army Helicopter training program at Fr. Walters, TX., a nine month program split between Ft. Walters, TX and Rt. Rucker, AL. he accepted his Warrant Appointment on October 5, 1969 and received his Army Aviator Wings on October 6, 1969.

On November 17, 1969 he was assigned to the 145th Combat Aviation Bde., 190th Assault Helicopter Company (Spartans), Ben Hoa, South Viet Nam., he flew many missions supporting the various units within 3 Corp. On August 11, 1970 while flying a low lever reconnaissance mission he was seriously injured, receiving small arms wounds to his chest and right arm, despite his wounds he continued to locate enemy positions until his helicopter was hit with several RPG's. He was awarded the Purple Heart and Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism while participating in aerial flight. On June 2, 1971 he returned to Viet Nam with a sister unit of the 190th, the 118th Assault Helicopter Company (Thunderbirds). During this tour his unit supported the Vietnamese Program flying with South Vietnamese Co-pilots until they unit stood down.

After returning from Viet Nam he was assigned to Ft. Rucker, Al. attending the UH-1 (Huey) instructor pilot program. Upon graduating he remained at Ft. Rucker training Fixed Wing Aviators to fly helicopters, training Thai, Panamanian, Ethiopian, and Korean pilots, he later was selected to retrain POW helicopter pilots. He remained at Ft. Rucker until July 15, 1975 when he was assigned to HHC US Army Security Agency Field Station Korea.

After Korea he was assigned to the 197th Infantry Bde., as a UH-1 (Huey) instructor pilot, instrument flight examiner and maintenance officer. He remained there until April 23, 1981 when he was assigned to the 3rd Squadron 4th Calvary, Schofield Barracks Hawaii. In 1982 he was reassigned to the 24th Infantry Bde, Division Aviation Office as the Division Helicopter Standardization Officer. In 1983 he headed a mobile training team to Thai Land to train Thai Helicopter pilots in Nap of the Earth flying techniques. He was present the Thai Master Aviator Badge by the Commander of the Thai Aviation Center.

In 1984, after returning to Hawaii from Thai Land he was selected to attend the Multi Engine Fixed Wing training program at Ft. Rucker, Al. Upon graduation he was assigned to the 35th Signal Bde., 18th Airborne CORP, and Ft. Bragg, NC. as a fixed wing aviator. He remained there until 1988 until his selected to attend the AH-64 Apache training program and upon graduation was assigned to the 229th Aviation Regiment. (Flying Tigers), 18TH Airborne CORP, Ft Bragg, NC. However the unit was assigned to Ft. Rucker, AL. developing the AH-64 Apache combat doctrine. In 1990 the 229th

deployed to Saudi Arab as the 18th Airborne Division's AH-64 Attack Helicopter Regiment in support of Desert Storm.

On June 30, 1991 he retired after 23 years as an Army Aviator.

His awards include the: Legion of Merit, Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism, Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Meritorious Service Medal 3rd OLC, Air Medal 27th Award, Air Medal With "V" (Valor), Army Commendation Medal 2nd OLC, Southwest Asia Service Medal with 3 Bronze Stars, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal with 1 Bronze Star, Vietnam Service Ribbon with 3 Campaign Service Stars, Vietnamese Air Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Kuwait Liberation Medal-Saudi Arabia, Master Aviator Badge.